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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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Ramzan celebrated

Sir Khazi of Mysuru Hazarath Moulana Mohammed Usman Shariff addressing the gathering at the mass prayers held at Eidgah Maidan in Tilaknagar this morning.

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (RK&KS)- Thousands of Muslim brethren congregated at all Eidgah Grounds across the city and attended mass prayers to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitar (Ramzan) this morning. At the Eidgah Ground in Tilaknagar, Sir Khazi of Mysuru Hazarath Moulana Mohammed Usman Shariff spoke about the significance of fasting for a month and said, Muslims distribute 2.50% of their income in the name of 'Zakath.' 'Fithra,' another type of charity, is mandatory to every Muslim even for a baby born a day earlier, so that even the poor could celebrate Eid.

(See RAMZAN on page 7)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-6 for Abracadabra titled ***"Indian Judiciary at the crossroads: Janata Janardan is watching."*** — Ed

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Three convicted in abduction, killing of Mysuru-based healer

Shaba Sharif was abducted in 2019 and killed after year-long torture at Nilambur in Kerala

Hair strand seals conviction

Mysuru/ Malappuram (Kerala), Mar. 31 (Agencies)- The Additional District and Sessions Court-I at Manjeri in Kerala has sentenced three individuals to varying prison terms for the murder of Shaba Sharif, a traditional healer from Mysuru.

Shaba Sharif

Shaba Sharif (60), a resident of Vasantha Nagar in Bogadi 2nd Stage, Mysuru, was abducted on Aug. 1, 2019 and killed on Oct. 20, 2020, at a house in Nilambur, Kerala, after torture. He had left his home on Aug. 1, claiming he was going to treat someone suffering from piles. The gang abducted him to learn his healing techniques, which had made his clinic popular.

The main accused, Shaibin Ashraf (37), received 13 years and nine months of rigorous imprisonment and was fined Rs. 2.44 lakh. P. Shihabudheen (36), the second accused, was sentenced to eight years and nine months in prison with a fine of Rs. 60,000. Nishad Naduthodika (32), the sixth accused, was handed a five-year and nine-month sentence along with a fine of Rs. 45,000.

Judge M. Thushar delivered the verdict recently, directing that the convicts serve their prison terms consecutively rather than concurrently. The trio was found guilty of multiple charges, including culpable homicide, conspiracy and destruction of evidence.

Sharif ran a piles clinic in Vasantha Nagar, which became widely popular due to the effectiveness of his treatment. The mastermind behind his abduction was Shaibin Ashraf, a businessman based in the Middle East.

(See CONVICTED on page 7)

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 31st March 2025

Amrita to host 'CINERAMA - 2025'

7th National-level Short Film Festival on Apr. 3

Mysuru, Mar. 31- The Department of Visual Communication, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Mysuru Campus, is organising the 7th National-level Short Film Festival 'CINERAMA-2025' on Apr. 3 at its premises in Bogadi II Stage here.

T.N. Seetharam, Veteran Director, Writer and Actor of Kannada Film Industry, will inaugurate the fest at 9.30 am.

Actress Milana Nagaraj will be the chief guest for valedictory and awards function at 5.30 pm. Vaishali Hanumanth and C.R. Hanumanth, Proprietors, DRC Multiplex Cinemas, Mysuru, will be the guests of honour.

The fest aims to provide a platform for students to showcase their talent and skills in short film-making. Winners of the event will be awarded with attractive cash prizes — First Best Film, Second Best Film and Third Best Film.

T. N. Seetharam *Milana Nagaraj*

In addition to these, special recognition will be given in categories such as Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Performer, Best Cinematographer and Best Editor, all of which will also carry cash prizes.

Short films were invited from students and professionals across the country to participate in the festival. To further inspire budding film-makers, participants were encouraged to take part in the "60-Hour Film-making Challenge." Winners in this category will also receive cash prizes for the top three films.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

TOWERING CHARIOTS, FALLING SAFETY: ***The collapse of a 100 feet-tall chariot during the historic Huskur Madduramma fair near Rayasandra in Bangalore Rural district, which claimed the lives of a 27-year-old man and a teenage girl, is a reminder of the dangers posed by unchecked competitive fervour and inadequate regulation. A second towering chariot which was also participating in the fair toppled a short distance away, but fortunately, it did not result in casualties. Ironically, the incident occurred for the second year in a row, with previous lessons clearly overlooked.***

With a tradition spanning over a century, the fair attracts thousands of devotees, including from neighbouring Tamil Nadu. However, when tradition collides with neglect, disaster becomes inevitable. Since 2021, a growing competition among the villagers to construct the tallest chariot has overtaken the essence of the festival. This year, despite the district administration's directive to cap the height at 80 feet, one of the toppled structures stood at over 100 feet.

The root of the problem lies in ignoring basic engineering principles. Chariot construction, especially at such dizzying heights, demands a solid understanding of physics. A higher centre of gravity makes a tall structure inherently unstable. Torque created while turning or moving adds further stress. Weak structural components — wheels, axles, frames — combined with poor surface conditions and exposure to wind, create a recipe for collapse.

The government must move beyond merely setting height restrictions. There is a dire need for technical guidelines that address structural integrity, balance, wind resistance and ground conditions. Each chariot should be inspected and issued a fitness certificate by engineers. Accountability should also be fixed on officers who fail to enforce these norms. Religious fervour should never come at the cost of human life and safety. As communities cherish tradition, they must also embrace safety. Let this tragedy be the turning point, not only for the Huskur Madduramma fair, but for all such festivals across the country. Ultimately, festivals should be a celebration of heritage, faith and community, rather than a risk to human life. — *In Deccan Herald*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Diver breaks record for underwater pull-ups

Cairo: An Egyptian diver plunged into the Red Sea to break Guinness World Record for the most pull-ups under water with one breath.

Ramy Abdelhamid, 36, dived 29 feet and 6 inches down where his pull-up bar was waiting.

"A lot of people think it's easy because you're pulling yourself up under water, the buoyancy will help you, which is true, but the challenge was actually pushing myself back down," he told Guinness World Records.

Abdelhamid managed to take the record with 33 pull-ups before he had to surface for air.

Man breaks basketball passing record

London: An Idaho man broke a Guinness World Record -- and a sign at the organization's headquarters by completing 38 behind-the-back basketball passes in 30 seconds.

David Rush, who holds the most concurrent Guinness World Records, attempted the record for the most behind-the-back passes off a wall in 30 seconds during a visit to Guinness World Records headquarters in London.

Rush took the record with 38 passes, besting the previous record of 25.

"LeBron broke the NBA's all-time scoring record passing 50,000 points and here I am, breaking a basketball record of my own," Rush wrote.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Myth: Calcium supplement causes renal stone.

Fact: Calcium intake in moderation would prevent stone as it binds to oxalate and prevent its absorption in intestine.

By Dr. Thimmaiah K.A. - Consultant – Urology, Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

State-level Pourakarmika Convention in Bengaluru on Apr. 3

Mysuru, Mar.31 (MTY&DM)- A State-level Convention of Pourakarmikas will be held at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru at 11 am on Apr. 3.

Announcing this at a press meet here, Karnataka State City Corporations, CMCs and TMCs Pourakarmika Mahasangha State President Narayana, who is also a former Mysuru Mayor, said that the Sangha is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year and as part of it, a mega convention of Pourakarmikas is being held at Bengaluru.

Pointing out that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the convention at 11 am on that day, he said that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will preside, while Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar will pay floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

A host of State Cabinet Ministers will also be attending the event, he said adding that the CM, Dy.CM and other Ministers will be felicitated for regularisation of service of 29,000 Pourakarmikas by abolishing the contractual appointment system.

Mahasangha office-bearers R. Shivanna, R. Das, artist S. Nagaraj, Yathiraj and Vijay were present at the press meet.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **104.41 feet**	Today's level **2,270.06 feet**	Today's level **2,834.11 feet**
Last year's level **85.64 feet**	Last year's level **2,265.15 feet**	Last year's level **2,827.48 feet**
Yesterday's level **104.48 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,270.07 feet**	Saturday's level **2,834.01 feet**
Today's Inflow **101 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **49 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **84 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **671 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **0 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **100 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- ***Humpback whales can migrate up to 16,000 kilometres each year.***
- ***Humpback whale tails can be as wide as 18 feet (5.5 m): While their front flippers can grow up to 16 feet (5 m), which is the largest appendage in the world.***
- ***Humpback whale calves are almost the same size as an elephant.***
- ***Humpback whales are known for breaching and tail slapping on the surface. Humpback whales can eat 3,000 pounds (1.4 metric tons) of food a day.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

"Hello ! Mr. Kothari," ***Ram wished his neighbour.***

"I guess he's angry with you. He didn't return your greeting," ***remarked Sham.***

"Oh! He's my neighbour, he never returns anything," ***explained Ram.***

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 85.49
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 110.86
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 23.28
1 Euro	= Rs. 92.65

VOICE OF THE READER

On patients' plight

Sir,

I was disturbed when I read the letter written by M.S. Soumya in *SOM* dated Mar. 22, 2025.

When a small problem of closing the gap in the abdomen could be easily solved by a good doctor nearer home, how her father had to visit several doctors who just said nothing could be done.

The shocking thing is, a corporate hospital in Bengaluru has advised several types of diagnosis and the cost is more than a couple of lakhs of rupees.

Suppose some patients become gullible and accede to such advice of some doctors, I wonder what could have resulted.

No doubt, ultimately it is the fate and luck of the patients that matters. However, one has to think twice and use common sense before we go on to diagnosis and treatment.

Before we go to a hospital or doctor we have to pray to God for a good, compassionate, intelligent doctor who can listen to the patient before prescription.

—Kala Chary
Bogadi
Camp: Washington DC
24.3.2025

Lions Club of Mysore Paradise inaugurated

Mysuru, Mar. 31- Lions District Governor Ln. N. Subramanya recently inaugurated the new Lions Club of Mysore Paradise of Lions District 317G.

The Club has 25 Charter members with Ln. L.V. Srinivas being installed as Charter President, Ln. N. Gowrishankar as Charter Secretary and Ln. Rakshith Srinivas as Charter Treasurer.

Earlier, First Vice-District Governor Ln. K.L. Rajashekara inducted the new charter members and Multiple Council Chairperson Ln. Dr. N. Krishnegowda installed the office-bearers to their respective offices. President of the sponsoring Club Ln. R.H. Nagaraj presided. First Lady of the District Ln. Vani Subramanya, Second Vice-District Governor Ln. S. Mathidevakumar, Cabinet Advisor and Past District Governor Ln. K. Devegowda, District Ambassador Ln. V. Harsha, Additional Cabinet Secretary Ln. P. Ramesh, Additional Cabinet Treasurer Ln. M.R. Dharmaraj, Region Chairperson Ln. Shivaramu and a host of Cabinet officers and Lions were present.

Secretary Ln. Nagarajachar proposed the vote of thanks. Ln. S. Nagaraj was the Master of Ceremony.

Come April, MCC to collect Solid Waste Management user fee from residents

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (VNS)- Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) will levy user fee for the Solid Waste Management from the residents from Apr.1. In a press release, the MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif has said that in the first phase Rs. 10 will be charged for residential areas up to 500 sq.ft., Rs. 40 for areas measuring 501-1,000 sq.ft., Rs. 50 for areas measuring between 1,001 to 2,000 sq.ft. and Rs. 75 for residential areas measuring over 2,000 sq.ft.

The release further stated that the user fee was being levied as per the new Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016 notified by Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

"The collection of user fees for solid waste management has also been mentioned in the notification issued by Department of Urban Development dated 9.10.2019 and the same was discussed during the progress review meeting headed by National Green Tribunal (NGT), State Committee Chairman Justice Subhash B. Adi on 17.1.2024. The MCC has also received approval from the Administrative Officer," stated the release.

Dekho Apna Desh photo contest

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (VNS) - Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, under the banner 'Discover the beauty of India' has launched '*Dekho Apna Desh Photo Contest - 2025*' with an aim to celebrate and showcase the rich and diverse tourism offerings including monuments, landscape, GI tag handicrafts, wildlife, adventure activities among others across India.

The contest invites photographers, storytellers, influencers and citizens to submit their best photographs that capture the essence of India's cultural and natural heritage.

Those interested may submit their best shot from the given categories before Apr.7, 2025 via: *Dekhoapnadeshphotos@gmail.com,* according to a press release from Tourism Director.

WALK-IN DRIVE

rProcess is hiring for an AI Data Annotation project. We are looking for candidates with good communication, basic computer skills, attention to detail, and a result - focused approach.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Zoo, Karanji Lake open tomorrow

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) and Karanji Lake Nature Park will be kept open for public on Tuesday (April 1) on account of Ugadi, Ramzan Festival and Summer holidays to Educational Institutions, according to the Zoo Executive Director.

Applications invited for Notary

Following the demise of Advocate Abdul Rehman Pasha, who was serving as Notary in Mysuru taluk, District Court has invited applications from eligible Advocates for appointment as Notary in the vacant post. Eligible candidates can fill up Form 1 (Memorial Rule 4(2)) and submit the same along with necessary documents to the Office of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Mysuru, before May 2.

City to get Rs. 66 crore modern Biogas Plant

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited to set up 10-acre facility at Sewage Farm; awaits Government nod

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (RK&BCT)- Moving towards sustainable urban development, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) is set to launch a waste-to-energy project at Vidyaranyapuram Solid Waste Management Plant (Sewage Farm or Excel Plant).

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has proposed a Rs. 66 crore Compressed Biogas Facility (CBG) to convert organic waste into fuel — marking a major milestone in the city's waste management efforts.

The facility will process around 200 tonnes of organic waste (wet waste) daily, significantly easing the strain on the city's waste disposal system. MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif told *SOM* that the Plant's location has been identified and the proposal is now awaiting Government approval.

The proposed biogas facility will be set up on a 10-acre land inside the Sewage Farm, with the Plant clearing the wet waste dumped at the site. "BPCL has presented the proposal, which has been discussed with Mysuru Division Regional Commissioner D.S. Ramesh, holding concurrent charge as MCC Administrator in the absence of an elected Council," said the MCC Commissioner.

Awaiting approval

The Plant proposal has been submitted to Dr. R. Selvamani, Karnataka Mission Director of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), and subsequently forwarded to Finance Department for approval.

BPCL will build and operate the Plant as a non-profit initiative, ensuring efficient conversion of organic waste into biogas fuel. To support smooth operations, MCC has pledged to develop the necessary infrastructure, including access roads and utilities.

The project is envisaged to be commissioned within 24 months from the date of handing over the land for construction activities and after obtaining requisite approvals, he noted. "Once we receive the Finance Department's clearance, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed with BPCL. Once operational, the project will not only reduce landfill waste but also generate clean, renewable energy," the Commissioner revealed.

A win-win deal

To maximise the project's benefits, MCC is negotiating a broader deal with BPCL. "We are proposing that BPCL supply Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to all MCC vehicles, as we plan to phase out our fuel-guzzling fleet. Additionally, we are seeking royalty for the 10-acre land that BPCL will use for the Biogas Plant. Meanwhile, BPCL can generate revenue by selling biogas. This makes it a win-win arrangement for both MCC and BPCL," Shaikh Tanveer Asif added.

Mysuru has been making steady progress in addressing its mounting waste crisis. The city has already cleared 40 percent of its 7 lakh tonnes of accumulated waste at Sewage Farm.

The new Biogas Plant will give this effort a further boost by providing an eco-friendly solution for daily waste management, reducing methane emissions from decomposing garbage and producing sustainable energy.

Turning waste into renewable energy

BPCL's Compressed Biogas (CBG) facility is a cutting-edge unit that converts organic waste into compressed biogas through the following steps:

- **Pre-processing:** Organic waste like agricultural residue and food waste is sorted and cleaned of non-organic contaminants.
- **Anaerobic digestion:** The waste is fed into oxygen-free digesters, where microorganisms break it down over weeks, producing biogas and digestate.
- **Biogas purification:** The raw biogas undergoes scrubbing and filtration to remove impurities like carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and moisture, yielding high-purity methane.
- **Compression and storage:** The purified biogas is compressed into CBG and stored in high-pressure cylinders or tanks for distribution.
- **Distribution and use:** The CBG will be used as a renewable fuel for vehicles, industrial processes and power generation.

IPL 2025

TODAY'S MATCH
MAR. 31

MI Vs **KKR**
Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
7.30 pm

TOMORROW'S MATCH
APRIL 1

LSG Vs **PBKS**
Ekana Cricket Stadium B Ground, Ardonamau, UP
7.30 pm

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

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RR 182/9 (20 overs)
BEAT
CSK 176/6 (20 overs)

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Officials directed to ensure drinking water supplies

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (DM)- District In-charge Secretary S. Selvakumar has directed the District Administration to ensure that there is no drinking water shortage or crisis during summer.

He was presiding over a Progress review meeting at the ZP Hall here on Saturday. Asking the officials to get confirmed whether pure drinking water is supplied to all parts of the district, he said that as of now, there is no drinking water shortage anywhere in the district. However, 109 villages that may face drinking water shortage have been identified. As such, necessary precautionary measures have to be taken to ensure prevention of any water crisis, he said adding that there are high hopes of a good monsoon and agricultural activities are expected to gain pace in the coming days.

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department Executive Engineer A.S. Ranjith Kumar maintained that there is no drinking water shortage in the district. However, it is expected that 109 villages may face drinking water crisis after June. The Department has held talks with private borewell owners for addressing the issue, he said adding that measures have been taken to drill defunct borewells. Ranjith Kumar further said that 13 works taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission are under progress.

PWD EE Raju said that the construction of Pandit Deen Dayal Hostel for Girls at Gangothri is near completion and construction of Boys Hostel is expected to be complete in two months.

When Selvakumar questioned about the delay in the launch of works concerning Government Schools in Varuna, DDPI S.T. Javaregowda said that though Rs. 7.5 crore has been released for repair and construction of additional rooms in schools, he said that the funds were released only in February and the process of issuing work order is in progress.

Joint Director of Agriculture Ravi said that the district has received more rainfall in the first three months of the year. Pointing out that the normal rainfall in this period is 13 mm, he said that, however the district has received 23 mm rainfall. Barring Mysuru, Nanjangud and T. Narasipur taluks, the district has received good rainfall in the first quarter of the year, he added.

Veterinary Dept. Deputy Director Dr. Nagaraj said that there is no shortage of fodder in the district for now. Noting that 32,514 fodder kits have been distributed in the district thus far, he said that 'Green fodder' is also available in all taluks of the district.

DC G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, ZP CEO S. Ukesh Kumar, ZP Deputy Secretaries Dr. M. Krishnaraju and Savitha, Chief Planning Officer K.B. Prabhuswamy, Additional DC P. Shivaraju, DHO Dr. P.C. Kumaraswamy, Food and Civil Supplies Joint Director Kumuda and other officials were present.

Bank account turns 'suspect': Man caught in cybercrime net

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (BCT)- It is a common belief that depositing money in banks is safer than keeping it at home. However, recent incidents reveal that even banks are not secure.

Kiran Naik

Alarmingly, individuals with bank accounts — despite committing no mistakes — now face the risk of being labelled suspects under cybercrime laws.

Kiran Naik, a Mysuru resident, holds an account at State Bank of India (SBI), Yadavagiri Branch. On Mar. 25, his salary of Rs. 20,000 was credited to his account.

While he was in Bengaluru at the time, he withdrew cash from an ATM. After spending Rs. 300 on petrol, he was shocked to find his account balance had plummeted to minus Rs. 9,772 (negative balance), despite having over Rs. 500 in his account before the transaction.

Concerned, Kiran visited the Thavarekere branch of SBI in Bengaluru to report the issue. The staff there directed him to his home branch in Mysuru.

At the Yadavagiri branch, he was informed that similar discrepancies had affected several customers on Mar. 15 and again on Mar. 25. However, bank officials were clueless about how to resolve the issue and remained non-committal.

Funds diverted to unknown account

In a desperate attempt to test his account, Kiran deposited Re. 1 and later Rs. 20, but neither amount was credited. Instead, the transaction status showed 'transferred', indicating that any deposit was being rerouted to an unknown account.

When Kiran requested to close his account due to these alarming irregularities, the bank staff informed him that his account had been flagged as a 'suspect account.' They warned him that closing the account immediately would not clear the suspect status, potentially causing further complications.

Instead, the staff advised Kiran to wait until they received instructions from the cybercrime division via e-mail. Shockingly, Kiran was flagged as a 'Layer-3 suspect' in a cybercrime case registered in Jaipur, Jharkhand, after fraudsters used his account for third-level transactions.

Cybercrime link exposed

Upon reviewing Kiran's account, it was discovered that a cybercrime incident involving his account occurred in Jaipur, Jharkhand. Being tagged as 'cybercrime Layer-3' means his account was the third party in a chain of fraudulent transactions.

When Kiran approached the Yadavagiri SBI branch to file a complaint, the staff refused to accept it, stating they were awaiting an e-mail from the cybercrime division.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Kiran said: "The bank is washing its hands of the case. They are refusing to close my account. Any money I deposit is being transferred elsewhere. I have an EMI due on April 1 and without sufficient funds, my CIBIL score will be affected."

Kiran added that he even managed to obtain the contact number of Jaipur Cybercrime Station but got no response when he called, leaving him distressed. Frustrated by the bank's inaction, Kiran has now consulted a lawyer and plans to file a case at Mysuru Cybercrime Station.

Shockingly, Kiran revealed that his relative, Ravikumar, who holds an account at the SBI branch in Vivekanandanagar, is facing a similar issue, with his account showing a negative balance of Rs. 7,500.

Kiran also pointed out a disturbing detail — while his bank mini-statement displayed only legitimate transactions made by him, the fraudulent cybercrime-related transfers were not visible. He noted that if he hadn't checked his balance, all his future deposits would have been siphoned off without his knowledge.

Armed robbery in Mysuru: Five arrested

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (RK&BCT)- The Alanahalli Police have arrested five armed robbers who broke into the house of Girish in Police Layout at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Nagar, Mysuru. The gang, wielding machetes, threatened the residents and fled with a gold chain.

The arrested suspects are 34-year-old Yogananda alias Yoga alias Anand alias Dadiya alias Upendra, son of Krishnegowda from Marasinganahalli village, Maddur taluk, Mandya district, 30-year-old Abhishek, son of Ravikumar from 3rd Cross, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru, 27-year-old Manukumar, son of Veeraiah from Kannur village, Kollegal taluk, Chamarajanagar district, 26-year-old Akash, son of Nagaraju from the same village and 26-year-old Venkatesh alias Gaja, son of Shivanna from Gundashettihalli, Channarayapatna taluk, Hassan district.

On Mar. 13, around 9 pm, the gang — wearing helmets — stormed into Girish's house in the 2nd Phase of SVP Nagar. They brandished machetes and iron rods, threatening the residents before snatching a 23-gram gold chain from Girish's neck.

Following swift action, Inspector G.S. Swarna of Alanahalli Police Station registered the case and launched an investigation. Based on the clues gathered, the Police tracked down and arrested the suspects.

Authorities recovered the stolen gold chain worth Rs. 40,000, along with two machetes, daggers, rods, masks, gloves, helmets and two motorcycles used in the crime.

Seasoned criminals

Police revealed that Yogananda and Abhishek are habitual offenders with multiple cases registered against them in Kuvempunagar, Metagalli, Chitradurga and other parts of Karnataka.

Their criminal record includes breaking into petrol stations and homes, threatening victims with machetes and rods, and looting cash and gold ornaments.

The operation was conducted under the guidance of City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar and supervised by ACP K. Rajendra of the Devaraja Sub-Division.

Inspector Swarna led the team, assisted by Sub-Inspector Gangadhar and staff members including Chethan, Kiran Rathod, Manjunath, Mallikarjuna and others. Sub-Inspector Chandrashekhar from the Technical Division, along with Kumar, Pradeep and Shivakumar, supported the investigation.

Meticulous planning

The gang specifically targeted houses and shops without CCTV cameras. On Mar. 13, before breaking into Girish's house, they ensured the location was devoid of surveillance.

Police revealed that in all their previous heists, the criminals followed a calculated pattern — conducting recces, preparing sketches and confirming the absence of CCTV cameras at the target locations before executing the crime.

Inspector Swarna has urged the public to install and maintain CCTV cameras at their homes and commercial establishments to enhance security.

Obituary

Santosh

Mysuru, Mar. 31- Santosh (40), former photojournalist and a resident of Chamundipuram, passed away following a heart attack at a private hospital in Bengaluru yesterday. He leaves behind his wife Sujatha, two sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Veerashaiva-Lingayat Burial Grounds in Vidyaranyapuram in city this afternoon, according to family sources.

Chamamma

Chamamma (93), a resident ofAshokapuram, passed away yesterday in city.

She leaves behind son J. Shivanna, Assistant News Editor at *Vijayavani* Kannada Daily, one daughter, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Ashokapuram Burial Grounds this morning.

Sweetha D'Costa

Sweetha D'Costa (40), wife of Justin Sunil D'Souza and a resident of Vijayanagar 4th Stage, passed away yesterday in city.

She leaves behind her husband, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral mass was held at St. Peter's Church in Bogadi this afternoon, followed by the burial at the Catholic Cemetery in Belawadi, according to family sources.

Vasantharaj Urs

Hunsur: Vasantharaj Urs (88), retired Principal of Hunsur Government Boys Junior College, passed away on Mar. 28 at a private hospital in Mysuru.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at his farm land in Bettadatunga village, Periyapatna taluk on Mar. 29, according to family sources.

Noor Ahmed

Noor Ahmed (80), retried Assistant Sub-Inspector, passed away on Mar. 28 in the town.

He leaves behind his wife Gulnaz Khan, Principal of Talent Educational Institution (CBSC), four daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Burial took place at the Muslim Burial Grounds at Shabir Nagar in the town.

Dinesh

Dinesh (45), a cable operator and a resident of V.P. Bore in the town, passed away following a heart attack.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at the burial grounds near Pump House yesterday afternoon, according to family sources.

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Indian Judiciary at the crossroads

Janata Janardan is watching

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

Supreme Court of India

Jagdeep Dhankhar
Vice-President of India

As a common man, I was intrigued to read about the case of the authorities finding burnt stacks of cash in the outhouse of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court. According to Arghya Sengupta, Research Director of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, that is held in high esteem for its service, Justice Yashwant Varma is "reputed to be a fine Judge. His judgements are well-reasoned and his record good." With such a Judge, how could this alleged wrong-doing happen? It seems a secret wrapped in mystery inside an enigma.

Be that as it may, I am prompted to reflect on the incident after reading Vikram Muthanna's column last Saturday. He had alluded to another case of 'wrong-doing' where the verdict was pronounced on 29th March, 2025, after 17 years, acquitting the former Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge Justice Nirmal Yadav (and four others) in the matter.

In Karnataka too there was a case of a Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, P.D. Dinakaran, alleged to be a tainted Judge, who was recommended by the **Judicial Collegium** for appointment to the Supreme Court. However, he was 'inexplicably' transferred to Sikkim instead and the credibility of the Collegium saved. This was in about 2014. Over a decade past, the question of the credibility of the Collegium system remains.

There are talks of impeaching Justice Yashwant Varma but we know that it would be an impossible step where two thirds majority is needed in both the Houses — Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Supreme Court Judge, Justice V. Ramaswami was the first Judge to face impeachment in 1993. It failed. He died aged 96, this month, on 8th March 2025 in Chennai. In a multi-party Democracy it is obvious impeaching a Judge for wrong-doing is an impossible exercise and, of course, there is no precedence in our country.

Before the Collegium system came into being, it was the **President of India,** who appointed Supreme Court Judges after consulting the CJI and other Judges of SC and HC as the President deemed necessary.

But in 1993, for whatever reason, the **Indian Judicial Collegium** system was introduced. It comprised CJI and four senior-most Judges of the SC. It recommends the appointments, transfers and elevation to SC and to High Courts.

However, in 2015, the Modi government found the Collegium system for what it was and is — perceived nepotism, opaque, even secretive and private. A brotherhood of Judges. Of the Judges, by the Judges and for the Judges.

So it brought a law, the **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)** in 2015 as a "Possible antidote to the culture of opacity" that pervaded Judicial functioning. However, as could be expected, the SC "swiftly extinguished it," to use the caustic language of Arghya Sengupta of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy. The NJAC composed of the CJI (ex-officio Chairperson), two senior Judges of SC next to CJI (ex-officio members), two eminent persons (one of whom must belong to a vulnerable or minority group) and Law Minister.

Among the available option to resolve this Judicial problem, the NJAC was generally considered the ideal one but it was "extinguished" by the SC. The Judicial Collegium system remained with the Judges. Alleluia!

It is, therefore, not surprising that our Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar had remarked that had the NJAC been present, "things would have been different" in the case of Justice Yashwant Varma.

India has never been short of legal luminaries who would rise to the occasion and find a way out of this kind of sticky judicial problems. Let us not despair. The case of Justice Yashwant Varma is an opportunity. **Let not our law-makers miss this opportunity — to make judicial appointments transparent, broad-based and inclusive.**

In a venal political system, it is judiciary which is the last bastion of hope for a common man. Any erosion, as is seen now, in its competency, integrity and honesty will further shake public confidence in the Judiciary. The Judges should inspire confidence in the litigants by their scholarship and personal conduct. **Courts should not be perceived as a remedy that is worse than the disease. That is when people take law into their own hands. Mafia and hit-man solution to get justice are the result of Judicial failure.** The American hit film "The Godfather" (1972) based on a book by the same title is an example. In a TV programme, a panellist openly said there are "fixers" in the Court. If so where is the legitimacy? Speaking to *NDTV,* one retired Chief Justice of Madras High Court regretted that there was no output from the Courts, no accountability and no integrity. That is bad news.

Yes, one may wish, as did our Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, that the NJAC had been there replacing the Collegium. But NJAC too had its limitations as it had nothing in it to tame and discipline the Judges with judicial accountability. So the wise law-makers of UPA-2 (Congress-led government) brought a **Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010** but it got stagnated. Wonder if Modi government took it forward.

However, for now the common man thinks that if a Judge is caught with stacks of money (as in the present case of Justice Yashwant Varma), he or she can get away. Therefore, Arghya Sengupta feels that an **Accountability Commission for the Judiciary** is the need of the hour. Will the Modi government use this opportunity to make the Judges accountable for any misconduct or wrong-doing?

As for the common man, he can only pray to Deva Guru Brihaspati to counsel Modi government to fix the numerous fault-lines in our Judiciary.

e-mail:
voice@starofmysore.com

Zoo Orangutan Minnie battling pneumonia

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (MTY&BCT)- Minnie, a 10.8-year-old Bornean orangutan at Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo), is under intensive medical care after being diagnosed with pneumonia — a recurring respiratory illness that has affected her multiple times in recent years.

Minnie, a star attraction at the Zoo for the past four years, was imported from Malaysia's Safari Wonderland Zoo in 2002 under an international animal exchange programme. As an arboreal (tree-dwelling) species, Bornean orangutans like Minnie are critically endangered, making her health a top priority for Zoo authorities.

According to a press release from the Zoo, over the years, Minnie has suffered from pneumonia at least three times, with each episode requiring extensive treatment. Veterinary experts attribute her condition to a combination of factors, including the unique respiratory anatomy of orangutans, environmental stressors, and potential bacterial or fungal infections.

Zoo's veterinary team has consulted international specialists from the UK and Malaysia, who have affirmed that the Zoo is adhering to globally recommended treatment protocols. Additional preventive measures have been suggested to bolster Minnie's long-term health.

Currently, a dedicated team — including the Karnataka Zoo Authority's veterinary advisors, Mysuru Zoo's medical staff and animal caregivers — is providing round-the-clock care. Advanced treatments, including specialised medication, continuous monitoring and supportive therapies, are being administered.

Despite the challenges, Zoo officials have reported encouraging signs of improvement in Minnie's condition.

"We are doing everything possible to ensure her recovery," said Zoo Executive Director Rangaswamy.

"Minnie is not just an endangered species but also a cherished member of our Zoo family. Bornean orangutans are critically endangered and Minnie's survival is vital for awareness and breeding programmes. We are committed to her well-being," he added.

Gen. K.S. Thimayya remembered

9 ft. tall statue of Gen. Thimayya to be installed near Kodava Samaja soon

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (BLU&VNS)- The 119th birth anniversary of Gen. K.S. Thimayya was celebrated at Kodava Samaja in Vijayanagar, here this morning by offering floral tributes to his portrait.

Speaking on the occasion, Samaja Secretary K.A. Belliappa announced that a 9 ft. tall statue of Gen. Thimayya would be unveiled near the Kodava Samaja during July this year and added that a work order for Rs. 4.5 lakh had been issued for the same.

Gen. Thimayya, who served the Indian Army in various capacities, was an inspiration to youths, he said adding that the installation of his statue would be a befitting tribute to him.

Kodava Samaja Vice-President M.P. Nanaiah, Treasurer Kashiyappa, members N.B. Kaverappa, P.K. Biddappa and others were present on the occasion.

Three convicted in abduction killing of Mysuru-based healer

(Continued from page 1)

According to the Police, Sharif was held hostage and tortured for over a year at Ashraf's house in Nilambur. The gang sought to extract the secret formula of his fast-healing piles medicine, hoping to launch their clinic. However, Sharif refused to reveal the combination.

On Oct. 8, 2020, after enduring prolonged torture, Sharif succumbed to his injuries. The following day, Ashraf and his associates dismembered his body and disposed of the remains in the Chaliyar River from Seethi Haji Bridge near Nilambur.

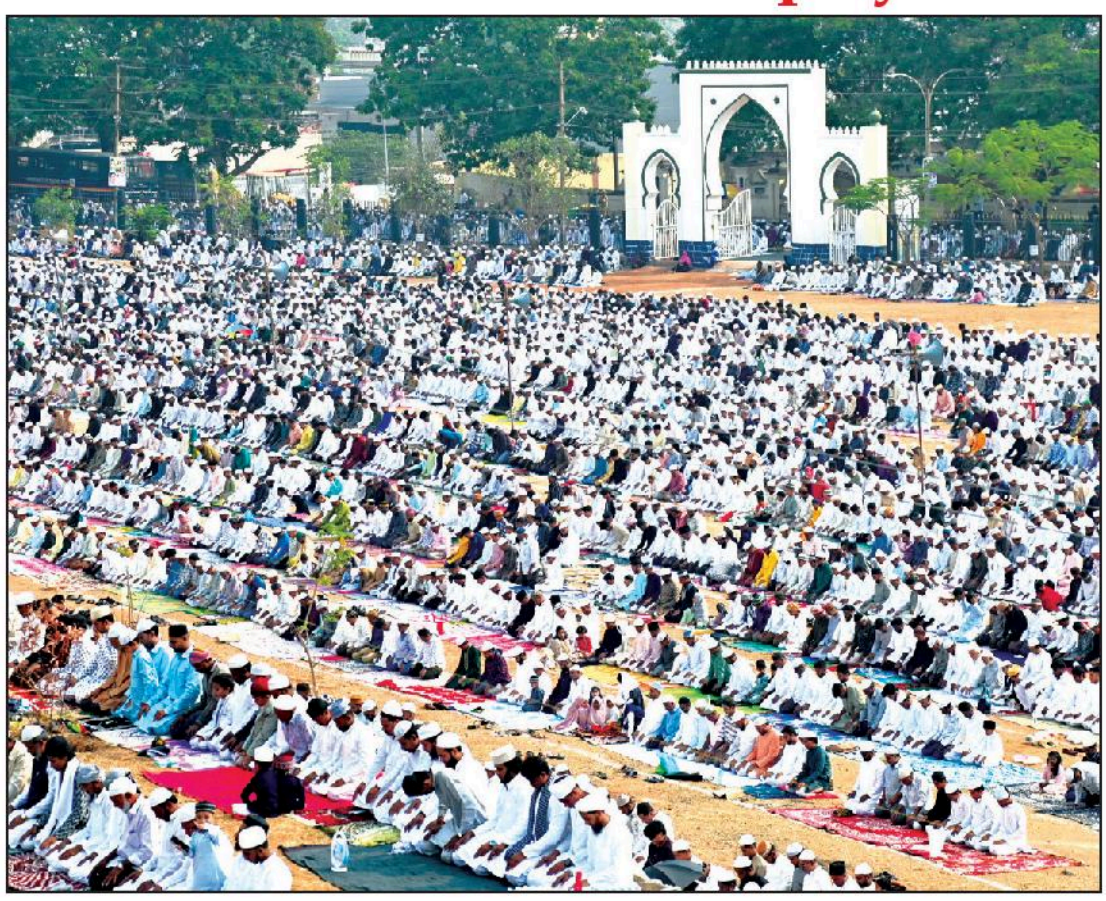
The crime remained undetected for nearly a year and a half. However, in April 2022, the case came to light after three of Shaibin's former associates attempted self-immolation in front of the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram.

The trio, who had previously stolen Rs. 3 lakh and a computer from Shaibin's house in Mukkatta, resorted to the drastic act out of fear of retaliation. Their attempted self-immolation caught the attention of the Police, who were investigating the burglary based on Shaibin's complaint.

During interrogation, the trio revealed the shocking details of the Mysuru healer's abduction, torture and murder. Ironically, Shaibin, who had filed the burglary complaint, was exposed as the mastermind behind the gruesome crime.

Ramzan celebrated

Thousands offer mass prayers



(Continued from page 1)

The Sir Khazi prayed for the security and welfare of every citizen of the country.

He then greeted Hindu brethren on the occasion of Ugadi and appealed to Muslim community people to spread the message of communal harmony and brotherhood by inviting non Muslims to their festivals and also take part in their festivals to understand each other.

Due to huge gathering, roads around the Tilaknagar Eidgah Maidan were blocked so that Eid prayer could be offered peacefully.

While Narasimharaja (NR) Traffic Police, led by DCP (Law and Order) M. Muthuraju and Traffic Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) M. Shivashankar, regulated traffic to prevent traffic jams, Mandi, NR and Lashkar Police provided bandobust.

MLA K. Harishgowda, former MLA M.K. Somashekar, KPCC Spokesperson M. Lakshmana, former VTU Dean Shakeeb-ur-Rahman, senior journalist Afsar Pasha, Muslim Co-operative Bank President Showkath Pasha, former Mayor Anwar Baig Aftab, former Corporator Suhail Baig, Showkath Ali Khan, Jameel Ahmed Ashrafi, Mumtaz Ahmed and others attended the Eid prayer at Tilaknagar Eidgah Ground.

Meanwhile, the Mysore District Moon Committee, which met yesterday evening at the Office of the Mysore District Wakf Advisory Committee on Sayyaji Rao Road, collected information from across the State about the sighting of the moon. As the moon was sighted in many parts, it was decided to celebrate Ramazan on Monday (today).

Hair strand seals conviction

Mysuru/ Malappuram (Kerala), Mar. 31 (Agencies)- A single strand of hair helped Kerala Police secure the conviction of the main accused in the murder of Shaba Sharif, a traditional healer from Mysuru, whose body or remains were never recovered.

Police and prosecutors revealed that the conviction of the three key accused was a commendable achievement, given the lack of physical evidence. The victim's body was hacked into pieces and dumped into the Chaliyar River in 2020, making it nearly impossible to retrieve.

However, it was a lone hair strand — found in the car of the main accused, Shaibin Ashraf — that confirmed the victim's identity. During their investigation, Police collected 42 hair strands as part of the forensic probe. A mitochondria DNA test on a single follicle belonging to Sharif came back positive, conclusively identifying him as the murder victim.

The accused had gone to great lengths to erase all traces of the crime. However, the DNA match from the hair strand became the key scientific evidence that linked the crime to Sharif.

Meanwhile, Police traced Sharif's identity through a missing persons case filed by his family in Mysuru in 2019, strengthening their case against the perpetrators.

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JSS STU hosts PDP on semi-conductor technology

Mysuru, Mar. 31- The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, JSS Science and Technology University (JSS STU) successfully conducted three-day Professional Development Programme (PDP) on Semiconductor Technology on the topic "Scaling the Future: Trends and Challenges in Semiconductor Technology."

The 3-day programme provided professional insights into emerging trends in semiconductor technology, including fabrication, characterisation, miniaturisation, design, manufacturing and packaging, while fostering collaboration, innovation and technical expertise.

It serves as a platform for industry professionals, academicians and researchers to exchange knowledge on advancements and challenges in the field.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. U.B. Mahadevaswamy, Professor and Head, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, who provided an overview of the programme and its significance.

Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, JSS STU, delivered an insightful talk on trends and challenges in semiconductor technologies, emphasising the need for sustainable advancements in the field.

Dr. B. Suresh, Director, Technical Education Division, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, addressed the audience on rapid technological advancements and urged professionals to align themselves with the evolving landscape. He emphasised the importance of preparedness for the exciting journey of technological evolution.

The highlight of the event was the keynote address by Dr. Navakanta Bhat, Dean, Interdisciplinary Science and Professor, CeNSE, IISc Bengaluru.

His speech traced the evolution of technology from vacuum tubes to the silicon revolution, shedding light on the inefficiencies of current AI hardware compared to the human brain, which remains the ultimate seat of computation and inference.

He provided a compelling perspective on India's aspirations in semiconductor technology and its role in national progress.

The event was graced by Dr. C. Nataraju, Principal & Dean (Engineering and Technology), JSS STU, Mysuru and Prof. (Dr.) S.A. Dhanaraj, Registrar, JSS STU, who encouraged participants to leverage the knowledge gained from the programme for future technological contributions.

GST eased tax burden on hotel industry, says expert

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (RK&BCT)- Implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been beneficial for the hotel industry, said Senior Chartered Accountant (CA) B.V. Mahesh.

Speaking at a GST awareness programme organised at the Hotel Owners' Association Office in Krishnamurthypuram, Mysuru, recently, he noted that while the hotel industry falls under the service sector, it was previously subject to both goods and services taxes.

"Hotel owners were burdened by these taxes but were unaware of the extent. With the implementation of GST, this burden has been alleviated. If one understands the laws and regulations, most tax-related issues can be resolved," he said.

Mahesh assured that tax authorities would inspect businesses only under specific guidelines of the INS-01 Act and not cause unnecessary trouble if taxes were duly paid.

"However, failure to maintain proper records or issue GST bills will invite departmental inspections," he warned. He also highlighted that with digital transactions through QR codes and bank records, concealing transactions is no longer possible.

During the session, hotel owners raised various queries and concerns regarding GST and other taxes. Mahesh and fellow Chartered Accountant P.R. Tejashwini addressed their doubts and provided solutions.

The event saw the participation of over 100 hotel owners, including Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association President C. Narayanagowda, Vice-President Ravi Shastri, Hotel Owners' Cooperative Society President Narayana V. Hegde, along with Subrahmanya R. Tantri and Anand Shetty.

'Tap Govt. initiatives for IPR growth'

Mir Amjad Husain seen addressing the gathering as Dr. Rohini Nagapadma, NIE Principal, Kiran Bettadapur, Patent Attorney, M. Shashikumar, Deputy Director, MSME DFO, Bengaluru, Dr. P. Sharathkumar, Head, Patent Cell, AIISH, Mysuru and A. Shivakumar, Asst. Director, MSME, DFO, Bengaluru, look on.

Mysuru, Mar. 31- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development & Facilitation Office, in association with National Institute of Engineering (NIE)-Incubation & Startup Centre, NIE-Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST) IPR Cell, the NIE, Mysuru, had organised a one-day awareness programme on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) at Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Hall in NIE (South), Mysuru, recently.

Mir Amjad Husain, Head, Incubation and Startup Centre, NIE, Mysuru, highlighted the importance of the programme and explained how the Incubation and Startup Centre at NIE support intellectual property protection, innovation and commercialisation.

Deputy Director of MSME, M. Shashikumar, emphasised the importance of intellectual property protection for MSMEs' competitiveness. He urged entrepreneurs and researchers to leverage Government support programmes for IPR filing, while highlighting MSMEs' role in economic development, innovation and IP protection.

In her Presidential address during the inaugural session, NIE Principal Dr. Rohini Nagapadma highlighted the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. She emphasised NIE's role in research and startups, aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat and urged participants to utilise IPR for commercialisation and economic growth.

Advocate & Patent Attorney Kiran Bettadapur, emphasised the monetisation of Intellectual Property (IP) by securing patents, copyrights and trademarks.

He discussed IP as a business asset, commercialisation strategies, technology transfer and licensing while addressing challenges like patent validity and market risks. His session provided valuable insights for startups, researchers and entrepreneurs.

Head, Patent Cell, AIISH, Mysuru, Dr. P. Sharath Kumar, delivered a lecture on patents and their types, explaining utility, design and plant patents. He also shared success stories of ground-breaking patents that transformed industries, emphasising the importance of IP protection in fostering innovation and commercialisation.

Assistant Director of MSME Development & Facilitation Office A. Shivakumar, explained about the initiatives supporting startups and businesses in IP protection and commercialisation. He highlighted Government schemes for marginalised sections, encouraging them to benefit.

He also urged students to explore Government-backed opportunities to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. B.M. Sankarshan (NIE-KSCST IPR Cell), Dr. C. Nagaraju (Department of ECE) and Dr. K. Gourav (Department of Civil Engineering).

Mysuru second in export of engg. products in State: MDSSIA President

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (MK&BS)- A.S. Satish, President of Mysuru District Small Scale Industries Association (MDSSIA), has said that Mysuru stands second after Bengaluru in the manufacturing and export of engineering products and the industries should focus on further augmenting the export of their products in the coming days too.

He was addressing the gathering of industrialists during a seminar on the topic 'e-Commerce and Opportunities in Engineering Export Beyond Borders' organised jointly by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) India, Amazon and DHFL, at the Institution of Engineers-India (IEI), Mysuru Local Centre, recently.

Satish said, it is ideal to organise the seminars to encourage the quantum of export and the MDSSIA, is doing its mite in this regard. "With Mysuru having highest export to its credit after Bengaluru city in the State, the recognition in the particular sector should be retained. Over 100 industries are involved in the export of their products and they should expand their area of work, that will invariably increase the quantity of export and development of industries," observed Satish.

Deputy Director of Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC), L. Meghala, said, with the purpose of encouraging industrialists, VTPC had organised one-day training programme. The impediments in the road to success are natural, but one should have a definite target to reach.

Asst. Director of DGFT K. Adarsh, Deputy Director of EEPC India V.C. Ravish, Business Development Manager, Amazon, Prajwal, Business Development Manager, DHFL Rohin George Thomas shared details about their share in exports. Divisional Secretary of MDSSIA C.N. Subramanya and others were present.

Graduation ceremony, Women's Day held at St. Joseph's College of Nursing

Mysuru, Mar. 31 (KS)- The 14th lamp lighting, oath taking ceremony and 10th Graduation ceremony of St. Joseph's College of Nursing was held at St. Philomena's College Indoor Stadium at Bannimantap in city recently.

A total of 91 new students took up the Light from Nursing Teachers and Oath was administered by St. Joseph's Hospital Nursing Superintendent Sr. Elizabeth Rani and 78 students graduated and the Oath was recited by Most. Rev. D. Bernard Moras, Apostolic Administrator - Diocese of Mysore, who was the President. He delivered the keynote address urging the students to develop compassion and kindness towards their profession.

Rev. Fr. A.J. Tony, Associate Director (Finance), St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, who was the chief guest, addressed the students on professionalisms and understanding the concerns of patients even beyond their duty hours

St. Joseph's Director Rev. Fr. Manuel D'souza, Administrator Rev. Fr. Roxan Baros, St. Philomena's College Rector Rev. Fr. Lourd Prasad Joseph, Secretary to the Bishop Rev. Fr. Praveen Kumar were present.

Women's Day celebrated: The Nursing College also celebrated International Women's Day with international Kho Kho player B. Chaithra being the chief guest for the occasion.

She called upon the girl students to spend their free time in activities which truly inspires them and achieve success in life. Pointing out that there may not be support for girl children initially, Chaithra told them that it was their responsibility to get the attention and support for the stream they are flowing in.

Chaithra was felicitated on the occasion. St. Joseph's Hospital and Nursing College Director Rev. Fr. Manuel D'souza, Administrator Rev. Fr. Roxan Baros, Principal D.G. Mamatha, Warden of Sanmathi Hostel Rev. Sr. Lucy and others were present.

Rotary Ivory City's Project at T.S. Subbanna Girls School atop Chamundi Hill

Jean Moseley, Senior Vice-President, Data Axle, USA, who was felicitated for donating Rs. 5 lakh to the school project under CSR initiative, seen with (from left) Rtn. S. Balachandar, Rtn. Mamatha Shashidhar, G.C. Rajanna, Secretary, T.S. Subbanna Educational Institutions Trust, Rtn. V.N. Prasad, Rtn. Jyothi Mukesh, Director, Community Service, Rtn. Shobha Nagaraj, Secretary, Rtn. Sunil Baliga, D. Krishna Murthy, School Head Master, Rtn. K. Shashidhar and Prashanth Rao of DATA Axle, Mysuru.

Mysuru, Mar. 31- Providing education to girl students as part of community service was a noble cause, said Jean Moseley, Senior Vice-President, Data Axle, USA, here recently.

Speaking as a chief guest at the programme of commissioning of the steel gate of the Rs.13-lakh compound project of Rotary Ivory City Mysuru, in association with Data Axle, at Sri T.S. Subbanna Girls High School atop Chamundi Hill, she said that community mobilisation was an important factor in ensuring access to quality education for all girls, more so when there were challenges like poverty and social barriers.

She stated that though she hailed from a farmer's family, she took up education and worked very hard. Women empowerment was key to the growth of a nation and India's various initiatives in this regard was laudable, she added.

While interacting with girl students, she advised them to get educated by working hard. "Not only for better future and prosperity of the women in particular but also for the betterment of the society in general," she said.

Stating that she had travelled for over 13 thousand kilometres from USA to visit the school in Mysuru, Jean Moseley said, "I am happy that girls are getting good education and facilities in Subbanna School."

Data Axle has donated Rs. 5 lakh as part of its CSR activities to the construction project.

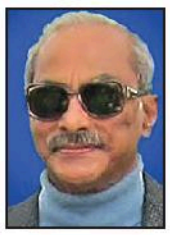
D. Krishna Murthy, Head Master of the School, Prashanth Rao of Data Axle, Rtn. Shashidhar, President of Rotary Ivory City, and Shobha Nagaraj, Hon. Secretary of the Club, spoke on the occasion.

Senior Rotarian Sunil Baliga appreciated the gesture of Data Axle while Rtn. V. N. Prasad spoke about the noble philanthropic activities of late T.S. Subbanna. There was a cultural programme by the children.

Captain Jojo Sengupta, a Brave Heart

Courage and service to mankind personified

Some have probably heard about or have met this extraordinarily brilliant Officer **Captain Jojo Sengupta**, late Trustee of Midas Foundation, who died on August 31, 2013, of cancer at Pune. He was from 16th Light Cavalry.



Captain Jojo Sengupta

A Rimcollian, he topped the UPSC exam for NDA and before that, the RIMC, then got the Gold Medal at NDA and at IMA. He was a Blue in swimming at NDA and IMA. **He topped his Young Officers course and was doing the Gunnery Course when the 1965 Indo-Pak War broke out.** Leading his troop, he was engaging Pakistani rcl and missile launchers, when a Cobra missile hit his x10 binoculars. He was evacuated bleeding, with a shattered arm and blood all over his face. "I will be OK, but how are my men?" he asked as the GOC (Sparrow's) helicopter took him away to Udhampur's Command Hospital.

The Army sent him to the best eye hospitals but he was blinded forever and at age 22. A wonderful girl, Rita, married him, knowing that he was handicapped for life. The sightless man became a man of vision; paradoxical but true. He was given a Gas Agency at Siliguri and his became their best agency. He could recall the phone numbers of his 10,000 customers as also their Consumer Numbers. He then took on a Tata Oil Mills distributorship and became their best distributor.

Restarting his education, he did his BA from North Bengal University and — you guessed it — topped. He started a Special School called Prerna which today has 165 kids across gender. The kids get everything including boarding and lodging.

He also improved the lives of special kids in 700 villages around Siliguri, a work that Rita now handles.

He and Rita have three kids; girl twins and a boy. One girl — guess what — married a blind officer; he was blinded in the Kargil War. He went on to do PG in TISS, Mumbai and then joined the UNO with his wife. They are now top rung officers. The son is with Goldman Sachs. The other girl had come to meet her dad at Pune as his life was ebbing away. Go back to LSE, UK; complete your studies, he motioned to her... I can wait. He did. She came in two days after he passed on; a brilliant human being; a great soldier; an officer and a gentleman.

The responses of the school kids on learning that Jojo had moved on, move you to tears; amaze you, make you a proud Indian. The girls have done it better but the boys aren't too far behind. Vidya Valley is run by Jojo's sister-in-law. 200 kids across gender wrote that they wanted to be like him.

A story like this reminds us that the human spirit has limitless potential and no matter what the adversity, we must never give up.

—This is sourced from a WhatsApp message

NOTE: *Winston Churchill, retired and very old, was requested to address his alma mater, the high school. He accepted the invite despite his poor health and when he was called to address, he went up to the stage, looked around the auditorium, students and the staff in pin-drop silence and said: "My young friends." He paused, looked around, then said: "Never give up." He paused a while and said: "Never give up." There was absolute stillness in the hall. Then he continued: "Never give up. Thank you."*

I remembered this incident about Churchill, reading this real life experience in the life of Jojo Sengupta. **—KBG**

Calling ST Engineering Graduates

Mysuru, Mar. 31- The SC/ST Welfare Department has invited applications from eligible ST Engineering Graduate students who get admission to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Professional Training course in IISc, IIT and NITs, for availing monthly student scholarship of Rs. 15,000.

The ST community students must have passed BE/ B.Tech with at least 55 percent marks from a recognised University. The maximum duration of the course is 2 years. The annual income of the family must not exceed Rs. 5 lakh. The eligible students can obtain the prescribed application forms from the office of the Project Co-ordinator, Integrated Tribal Development Project, Mysuru and the filled-in forms must be returned before Apr. 11. For details, contact Mob: 97420-99989, according to a press release.

WORD OF THE DAY

Derelict

Pronunciation: DAIR-uh-likt (adjective).
Meaning: Derelict is a formal word that describes something that is no longer cared for or used by anyone. It can also describe someone who is negligent or who fails to do what needs to be done.
Origin: The Latin verb relinquere, meaning "to leave behind," left English with a number of words, including derelict. Something derelict has been left behind, or at least appears that way. In another sense, someone who is derelict leaves behind or neglects their duties or obligations. Another descendant of relinquere is relinquish, meaning "to leave behind," "to give up," or "to release." Relic also ultimately comes from relinquere. Relics, in original sense of term, are things treasured for their association with a saint or martyr — that is, objects saints & martyrs left behind. Relinquere also gives English its name for containers or shrines which hold relics, reliquary.
Example: "In a movie that spends most of its time confined to the disorienting guts of a derelict spaceship, tracking Kenneth's de-evolution from Kennedy wannabe to a used car salesman version of Colonel Kurtz is often the only moral compass we have to find our way towards a better tomorrow." —David Ehrlich, Indie Wire, 15 Feb. 2025.

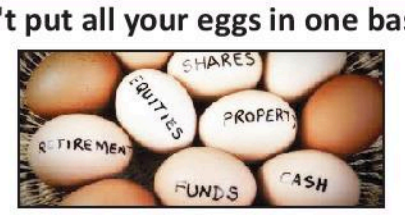
THE ODD WORD

Dapatical

Lavish; sumptuous; costly

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Don't put all your eggs in one basket



Meaning: You use the expression 'Don't put all your eggs in one basket' to indicate the importance of not putting all of your resources into one endeavour.
Origin: There is some controversy over the origin of the phrase 'Don't put all your eggs in one basket.' The expression is most commonly attributed to Miguel Cervantes, who wrote Don Quixote in 1605.
Example: "I really want to buy that house, but it will eat up my savings." Answer: "Don't put all your eggs in one basket. It's probably better to wait until you've saved a bit more."

QUOTE BOX

It may be the cock that crows, but it is the hen that lays the eggs.

—Margaret Thatcher

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: Shaky start.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

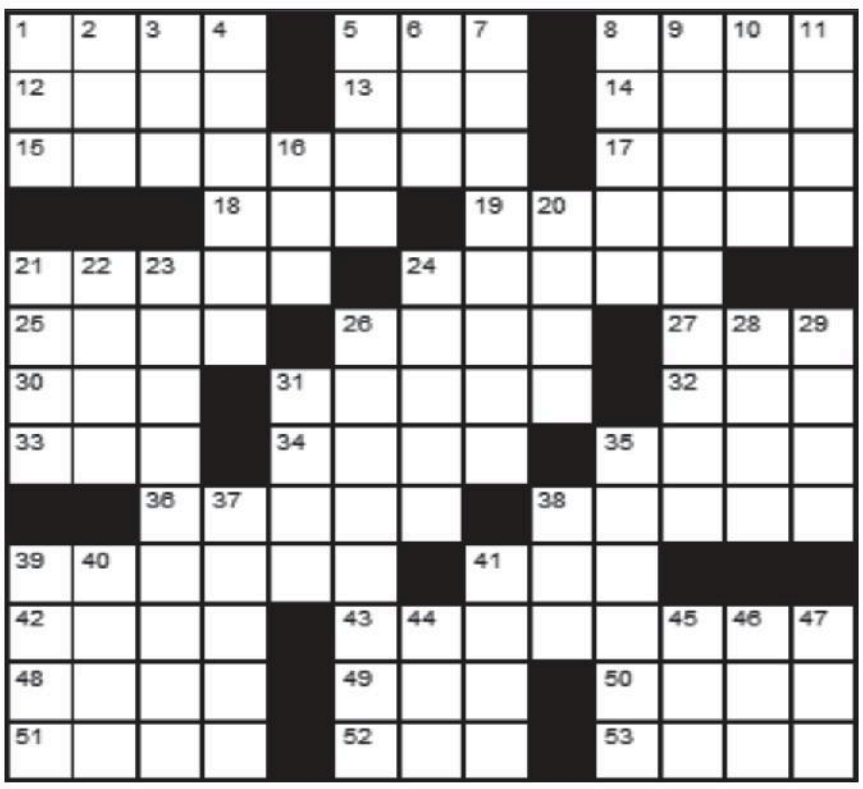
1 Hindu god of fire
5 Rumanian coin
8 Accountants in the US in short
12 Privy to (2,2)
13 A shrill bark
14 Miss Universe 2000 ___ Dutta
15 Second place getter (6-2)
17 Weapons - rifles, pistols etc.
18 Alcoholic beverage
19 Literary compositions
21 Political group
24 Snares
25 It fits to _ ___ : it fits perfectly? (1,3)
26 Fine fabric
27 Anger
30 One as a prefix
31 A type of tropical tree
32 A child's plaything
33 Sellers's Pink Panther sidekick Herbert ___
34 Take a photograph
35 Ten cents
36 Fairly quick
38 Accepts difficulties etc. bravely?
39 Narrow escape
41 Sea-eagle variant
42 Belonging to us
43 Springs back
48 As ___ as an owl?
49 Specialized U.N. agency
50 Coffin stand
51 "Let it stand", instruction for the printer?
52 Commonly used metal
53 Spanish river

SATURDAY'S ANSWER

B	U	D		A	G	O			T	E	C	
I	N	N		C	E	R	O		D	I	M	E
D	I	A	M	O	N	D	S		A	L	S	O
			T	R	E	A	T	E	D			
	T	W	E	N	T	I	E	S		A	V	A
S	E	A	T			N	O	N	A	G	O	N
W	A	R	N	E				E	V	I	C	T
I	M	P	A	S	S	E			A	L	A	E
M	S	S		P	A	R	A	L	L	E	L	
			O	N	T	A	R	I	O			
S	H	I	A		I	S	T	A	N	B	U	L
R	U	F	F		N	E	I	N		A	F	T
O	T	S				S	E	A		N	O	D

DOWN

1 Tune
2 African antelope
3 Not, as a prefix?
4 Intrinsic
5 String instrument
6 Seine's contents
7 Keep a stiff ___ ___ : show fortitude? (5,3)
8 Hold closely
9 Bloodsucking
10 Body of soldiers
11 Impudence
16 East Anglian city - "ley" anagram
20 Japanese rice drink
21 Mr McCartney of the Beatles
22 __ __ cost : free ? (2,2)
23 Pay back
24 "Freedom is my birth right....." patriot?
26 Ancient Indian language
28 It wasn't built in a day, we're told?
29 Observes narrowly
31 Our continent
35 European river
37 Start over
38 To and ___ : here and there, in a way?
39 Female pigs
40 Give up
41 Poetically black
44 Biblical high priest
45 Pen-point, beak
46 "The" in German
47 Sellout sign: abbr.



SUDOKU

						9	7	
6	2				3		5	
9		4	5			1		
	9			1		7		
			9		5			
		8		3			9	
		6			9	3		7
	7		8				4	1
	8	2						

Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	5	3	2	1	8	7	4
3	1	4	8	9	7	6	5	2
7	2	8	6	4	5	3	1	9
2	7	9	5	6	3	4	8	1
8	4	1	9	7	2	5	6	3
5	3	6	1	8	4	9	2	7
1	8	3	7	5	9	2	4	6
6	9	2	4	1	8	7	3	5
4	5	7	2	3	6	1	9	8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

WMEWZSWRAW SL LKOWYUSRH PKT VKR'Y

HWY TRYSF ITLY NCYWZ PKT RWWV SY.

TODAY'S CLUE: T EQUALS U

Saturday's Cryptoquip: No matter how much cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Gayathri Theatre** — **Ph: 2443568**
  L2: Empuraan (K) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — **Ph: 2423554**
  L2: Empuraan (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — **Mob: 99008-20093**
  Bad (K) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — **Ph: 2422871**
  Manada Kadalu (K) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — **Ph: 2521923**
  Veera Dheera Sooran - Part 2 (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — **Ph: 2452958**
  Bhagiratha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Bhagiratha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — **Ph: 2520494**
  Sikandar (H) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — **Ph: 2420885**
  Forest (K) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Mob: 98863-25207**
  Badass Ravikumar (H) - 3 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

L2 Empuraam (Ma)	(S-1)	9.50 am, 3.50 pm
	(S-2)	10.10 pm
	(S-4)	12.20 pm, 7 pm, 10.30 pm
Disney's Snow White (E)	(S-1)	1.30 pm
Robinhood (Te)	(S-1)	7.20 pm, 10.25 pm
	(S-4)	3.55 pm
Manada Kadalu (K)	(S-2)	9.45 am, 12.55 pm
		4 pm, 7.05 pm
Veera Dheera Sooran (Ta)	(S-3)	9.40 am, 12.55 pm
Mad Square (Te)	(S-3)	4.20 pm, 7.15 pm, 10 pm
Bad 2025 (K)	(S-4)	10.10 am

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Forest (K)	(S-1)	12.50 pm
Manada Kadalu (K)	(S-1)	3.35 pm, 6.25 pm; (S-3) 10.40 am
L2: Empuraan (K)	(S-1)	9.15 pm; (S-4) 2.45 pm
L2: Empuraan (Ma)	(S-2)	1.10 pm, 4.35 pm, 8 pm
	(S-3)	6.05 pm, 9.30 pm
	(S-4)	11 am
Robinhood (Te)	(S-3)	1.30 pm
	(S-4)	6.40 pm, 9.30 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Ph: 0821-230 0402

L2: Empuraan (Ma)	:	8.10 am, 10.30 am, 11.45 am
		2.05 pm, 3.20 pm, 5.40 pm
		6.55 pm, 9.15 pm, 10.30 pm
L2: Empuraan (H)	:	9.30 pm
Robinhood (Te)	:	8.50 am, 1.20 pm, 3.30 pm
		7.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Manada Kadalu (K)	:	9.30 am, 1.40 pm, 7.05 pm
Mad Square (Te)	:	10.30 am, 12.40 pm
		4.30 pm, 6.40 pm
Mylaapura (K)	:	11.10 am
Veera Dheera Sooran - Part 2 (Ta)	:	12 noon, 3.15 pm
		6.30 pm, 9.45 pm
Bad (2025) (K)	:	4.50 pm, 10.15 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 88009 00009

Mad Square (Te)	:	9.35 am, 3.05 pm, 9.30 pm
Veera Dheera Sooran - Part 2 (Ta)	:	9.55 am, 12.25 pm, 7.15 pm
L2: Empuraan (Ma)	:	11.15 am, 2.50 pm, 3.40 pm
		5.55 pm, 6.25 pm, 10 pm, 10.30 pm
L2: Empuraan (K)	:	11.30 am
Robinhood (Te)	:	1.10 pm, 9.45 pm
Manada Kadalu (K)	:	4.20 pm
Bad (2025) (K)	:	7.30 pm

INOX — LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 78299-99465

Mad Square (Te)	:	10.20 am, 4.25 pm, 10.30 pm
Veera Dheera Sooran - Part 2 (Ta)	:	10.25 am, 1.05 pm, 7.10 pm
Manada Kadalu (K)	:	11.10 am, 4.55 pm
L2: Empuraan (Ma)	:	11.15 am, 2.50 pm, 5.55 pm
		6.25 pm, 9.30 pm, 10 pm
L2: Empuraan (K)	:	2.20 pm
Robinhood (Te)	:	1.45 pm, 10.20 pm
Bad (2025) (K)	:	8.05 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Ph: 0821-4283555

L2: Empuraan (Ma)	:	8.10 am, 9.30 am, 11.45 am, 3.20 pm
		6.55 pm, 10 pm, 10.30 pm
L2: Empuraan (K)	:	3.15 pm
Mad Square (Te)	:	9.45 am, 12.30 pm, 7.35 pm
Bad (2025) (K)	:	1.20 am, 4.45 pm
Robinhood (Te)	:	1.05 pm, 6.50 pm
Manada Kadalu (K)	:	1.35 pm, 7 pm
Veera Dheera Sooran - Part 2 (Ta)	:	4.15 pm, 10.20 pm
Mylaapura (K)	:	10.10 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

EVENTS TODAY (MARCH 31)

- **Sahara Arts & Crafts:** Shopping Festival, Scouts & Guides Grounds, behind Old DC office, **up to 9.30 pm.**
- **Kumar Performing Arts Centre (KPAC):** 54th International Nirantara Kalemane Festival and International Women's Day celebrations, conferring of "International Women's Day Kalemane Kalashree Award" on adventure enthusiast Rukmini Chandran, advocate and former State Women's Commission Chairperson Manjula Manasa and artist Dr. Jamunarani Mirle; Cultural programmes by various troupes, Kalemane Sabhangana, Hebbal 2nd Stage, **4 pm.**
- **Trayinyas Shrividya Foundation:** 16th Vasantha Navarathri Mahotsava, Sri Mahamrutyunjaya Homa and Sri Dakshinamurthy Homa, Trayinyas, #8, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Mysore Palace Board:** Ugadi Sangeethotsava, light music concert 'Kannadave Satya' by Uppunda Rajesh Padiyar and troupe, **5.30 pm;** Bharatanatyam recital by Ananya and troupe, **6.15 pm;** Film songs by V. Ravikumar and troupe, **7 pm;** 'Sangeetha Gaanamrutha' by singer Naveen Sajju and team, Mysore Palace premises, **7.45 pm to 9.45 pm.**
- **District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru and Himalaya Pratishtana, Mysuru:** Sri T. Ananta Iyengar and Kamalamma Memorial Endowment Programme, 'Hiriya Sahiti Prof. K. Bhyravamurthy: Ondu Nenapu,' MLC Dr. D. Thimmaiah offers floral tribute, Mysuru District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Maddikere Gopal presides, Sanskrit Scholar Dr. K. Leela Prakash delivers lecture, senior social worker and endowment donor Dr. A. Pushpa Iyengar and senior social worker Dr. K. Raghuram Vajpayee chief guests, NaMo Yoga Bhavan, Ramanuja Road, **5.30 pm.**
- **Sri Ramaseva Mandali Charitable Trust, Mysuru:** 31st Ramanavami Music Series, Vidu. R.A. Ramamani inaugurates musical series and she will be honoured with the title 'Sangeetha Kalaradhaki,' she will render a vocal concert accompanied by Vid. Mysore V. Srikant on violin, Vid. Tumkur B. Ravishankar on mridanga and Vid. Sharath Kaushik on ghata, Sri Prasanna Parvati Kalyana Mantapa, adjacent to Sri Chandramoulishwara Temple, Vontikoppal, **6 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (APRIL 1)

- **Trayinyas Shrividya Foundation:** 16th Vasantha Navarathri Mahotsava, Mahabhisheka, Saptashathi Parayana, Lalithapakhya Parayana, Navavarana Puja, Shrichakrarchane, **8.30 am;** Vividha Ganapathi and Sri Vanchakalapalatha Sri Vidyaganesha Homa, Trayinyas, #8, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Sahara Arts & Crafts:** Shopping Festival, Scouts and Guides Grounds, behind Old DC office, **10.30 am to 9.30 pm.**
- **Sri Basaveshwara Samskrutika Pratishtana, Mysuru:** Dr. Sri Shivakumara Swamiji's 118th Jayanti Mahotsava and inauguration of Sri Vishnu Sankalpa Jyotishya Kendra, Sri Vishnu Saligrama Swamiji graces the occasion, social worker K. Raghuram Vajpayee offers floral tribute, Mysuru District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Maddikere Gopal presides, actor Supreeth releases poster, Namana Kala Mantapa, Krishnamurthypuram, **11.30 am.**
- **Sri Ramaseva Mandali Charitable Trust, Mysuru:** 31st Ramanavami Music Series, Vocal Duet by Aditi Nadutotta and P.B. Keerti, **5.15 pm to 6.15 pm;** Vocal Concert by Vidu Vasudha Ravi from Chennai, accompanied by Aditi Krishna Prakash on violin, C. Cheluvaraju on mridanga and N. Gurumurthy on ghata [Concert is in memory of Gowri and K. Seetharama Rao], Sri Prasanna Parvati Kalyana Mantapa, adjacent to Sri Chandramoulishwara Temple, Vontikoppal, **6.15 pm to 9 pm.**
- **Mysore Palace Board:** Ugadi Sangeethotsava, Clarinet and Other Musical Instruments concert by R. Mohan and troupe, **5.30 pm;** Dance performance on Kannada, Hindi and Korean songs by Dr. M.P. Preetham and troupe, **6.15 pm;** Light Music Concert by Deepika Srikanth and troupe, **7 pm;** Folk Music by Dr. K. Rameshwarappa and troupe, Mysore Palace premises, **8 pm to 9 pm.**

Table Tennis Tournament

Mysuru, Mar. 31- A Table Tennis (TT) Tournament has been organised by 9SPORTZ at Mahaveer Vidya Mandir, Srirampura, Mysuru, on Apr. 12 and 13.

The tournament, which aims to promote Table Tennis among students, enthusiasts and veterans in the region, will have the following categories:

Under-13 Boys and Girls; Under-16 Boys and Girls; Open Women; Above 35 Men; Above 50 Men; Above 60 Men and Above 65 Men.

The winners will receive cash prizes and trophies. The last date for registration is Apr. 10.

Interested participants may contact Mob: 83747-00693 for more details and registration, according to a press release.

Devara Dasimayya Jayanti on Apr. 2

Mysuru, Mar. 31- The District Administration and Kannada & Culture Department have jointly organised Devara Dasimayya Jayanti at Kalamandira on Hunsur Road in city on Apr. 2 at 11.30 am.

District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa will inaugurate the event. MLA K. Harishgowda will preside over the programme.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar and Chamarajanagar MP Sunil Bose will be the chief guests.

Rajarajeshwari Engineering College Professor Dr. K.S. Lakshminarayana will deliver a lecture on the occasion, according to a press release.

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